

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

KENNETH RAY UNDERWOOD,
Petitioner,

v.

THOMAS PATTERSON,
Respondent.

**SECOND ORDER TO AMEND
DEFICIENT PETITION &
MEMORANDUM DECISION**

Case No. 1:11-CV-136 DN

Magistrate Judge David Nuffer

Petitioner, Kenneth Ray Underwood, an inmate at Utah State Prison, filed a *pro se* habeas corpus petition.¹ Reviewing the Petition, the Court concluded that the Petition was deficient as described below.² On December 13, 2011, the Court ordered Petitioner to cure the below deficiencies if he wished to pursue his claims.

In response, Petitioner challenged the Court's mandate that Petitioner seek the constitutionally required help of the prison's contract attorneys. Petitioner stated that contract attorneys have no duty to help him with his initial habeas pleading. This is false.³ Further, Petitioner tried to again

¹See 28 U.S.C.S. § 2254 (2012).

²See *id.*

³See *Lewis v. Casey*, 518 U.S. 343, 356 (1996) (requiring prisoners be given "'adequate law libraries or adequate assistance from persons trained in the law' . . . to ensure that inmates . . . have a reasonably adequate opportunity to file nonfrivolous legal claims challenging their convictions or

name Thomas Patterson as his custodian, when his custodian is the warden of the facility in which he is imprisoned.

The Court repeats the prior information which remains applicable to the petition's deficiencies.

Deficiencies in Petition:

Petition:

- (a) was apparently not submitted using the help of the prison's contract attorneys, who are constitutionally required to assist, at Petitioner's request, in fashioning initial pleadings in habeas corpus cases involving current confinement.
- (b) lists a respondent other than his custodian.

Repeated Instructions to Petitioner

Under Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure an initial pleading is required to contain "(1) a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the court's jurisdiction depends, . . . (2) a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and (3) a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks."⁴ The requirements of Rule 8(a) are intended to guarantee "that

conditions of confinement") (quoting *Bounds v. Smith*, 430 U.S. 817, 828 (1977) (emphasis added)).

⁴Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a).

[respondents] enjoy fair notice of what the claims against them are and the grounds upon which they rest."⁵

Pro se litigants are not excused from compliance with the minimal pleading requirements of Rule 8. "This is so because a pro se [litigant] requires no special legal training to recount the facts surrounding his alleged injury, and he must provide such facts if the court is to determine whether he makes out a claim on which relief can be granted."⁶ Moreover, "it is not the proper function of the Court to assume the role of advocate for a pro se litigant."⁷ Thus, the Court cannot "supply additional facts, [or] construct a legal theory for [petitioner] that assumes facts that have not been pleaded."⁸

Petitioner should consider the following points before refiling his petition. First, the revised petition must stand entirely on its own and shall not refer to, or incorporate by reference, any portion of the original petition or any other documents previously filed by Petitioner.⁹ Second, the

⁵*TV Commc'ns Network, Inc. v. ESPN, Inc.*, 767 F. Supp. 1062, 1069 (D. Colo. 1991), *aff'd*, 964 F.2d 1022 (10th Cir. 1992).

⁶*Hall v. Bellmon*, 935 F.2d 1106, 1009 (10th Cir. 1991).

⁷*Id.* at 1110.

⁸*Dunn v. White*, 880 F.2d 1188, 1197 (10th Cir. 1989).

⁹*See Murray v. Archambo*, 132 F.3d 609, 612 (10th Cir. 1998) (amendment supercedes original).

petitioner must clearly state whom his custodian is and name that person as the respondent.¹⁰ Third, Petitioner may generally not bring civil rights claims as to the conditions of his confinement in a habeas corpus petition. Fourth, any claims about Petitioner's underlying conviction and/or sentencing should be brought under 28 U.S.C.S. § 2254; any claims about the execution of Petitioner's sentence should be brought under 28 U.S.C.S. § 2241. Finally, Petitioner should seek help from the prison's contract attorneys with preparing initial pleadings.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

(1) Petitioner shall have **THIRTY DAYS** from the date of this order to cure the deficiencies noted above.

(2) The Clerk's Office shall mail Petitioner a copy of the Pro Se Litigant Guide with a proper form petition and civil rights complaint, for him to complete, according to the directions.

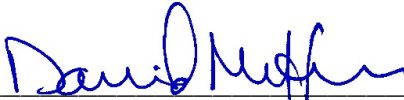
¹⁰See R. 2, Rs. Governing § 2254 Cases in the U.S. Dist. Courts.

(3) If Petitioner fails to timely cure the above noted deficiencies in accord with the instructions herein this action will be dismissed without further notice.

(4) Petitioner's motion to amend his deficient petition is DENIED.¹¹ The conditions under which he tried in that motion to amend his petition are inappropriate. Petitioner should instead follow the instructions in this Order.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2012.

BY THE COURT:



DISTRICT JUDGE DAVID NUFFER
United States District Court

¹¹(See Docket Entry # 6.)